

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-9 and 25-28. Please amend claims 10 and 11. Please add new claims 29 and 30. The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings.

1 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining synchronization of striped ~~cell~~ data traffic, comprising the steps of:

- (a) sending a common character in striped ~~cells~~ data in all lanes for a predetermined number of cycles;
- (b) evaluating the common control characters received at stripe receive synchronization queues; and
- (c) detecting when an in-synch condition is present that indicates the stripe receive synchronization queues have been cleared.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for managing out-of-synchronization traffic flow ~~through a cross point switch in a switching fabric~~, comprising:

- (a) monitoring ~~the~~ a level of stripe receive synchronization queues, ~~the stripe receive synchronization queues storing data that passed through the switching fabric~~;
- (b) determining whether an out-of-synchronization condition exists; and
- (c) initiating a re-synchronization routine when said out-of-synchronization condition exists; and further comprising, after said initiating step (c), the steps of:

(d) sending a common character in striped ~~cells~~ data in all lanes for a predetermined number of cycles;

(e) evaluating the common control characters received at the stripe receive synchronization queues; and

(f) detecting when an in-synch condition is present that indicates the stripe receive synchronization queues have been cleared.

12 - 28 (canceled).

29. (New) A method for maintaining synchronization of striped data traffic, comprising the steps of:

(a) sending a common character in striped data in all lanes for a predetermined number of cycles; and

(b) evaluating the common control characters received at stripe receive synchronization queues; and

(c) detecting when an in-synch condition is present.

30. (New) A method comprising:

(a) monitoring a level of stripe receive synchronization queues;

(b) determining whether an out-of-synchronization condition exists; and

(c) initiating a re-synchronization routine when said out-of-synchronization condition exists; and further comprising, after said initiating step (c), the steps of:

(d) sending a common character in striped data in all lanes for a predetermined number of cycles;

(e) evaluating the common control characters to detect when an in-synch condition is present.